



## NEWS FROM THE 1st DISTRICT

Dear Friends,

New Hampshire's foliage is spectacular and I'm happy to be back in the Granite State!

### **Improving benefits for surviving military spouses**

This week, I introduced a bill to increase benefits for surviving spouses of disabled veterans and servicemembers killed in the line of duty.

In August, a constituent who is the surviving spouse of a 100% disabled Vietnam combat veteran, approached me about the need for legislation. Bereaved spouses shouldn't have to worry about financial insecurity. The least we can do for our brave servicemembers is to ensure their loved ones will always have access to reliable benefits.

Thank you to Senator Tester for introducing a companion bill and to Gold Star Wives of America for endorsing our legislation.

### **A very bad budget**

Americans should sit up and take notice. Republicans in both the House and Senate have now passed a budget that poses a serious threat to the middle class, to seniors, and to working families who are already struggling. This budget sets the stage for Republicans in Congress to achieve their most dangerous goals: slashing Medicare and Medicaid and giving enormous tax cuts to the very wealthiest and the biggest corporations with a [tax plan](#) that would raise the lowest tax bracket rate, which applies to individuals earning less than \$10,000 per year, from 10% to 12%, while lowering the highest bracket rate from 39.6% to 35%. The sweetest deal is for big corporations, which would see their taxes reduced by [an average of \\$200 billion a year, or \\$2 trillion over 10 years](#). Now, Congressional Republicans will try to use the reconciliation process to make these dangerous goals a reality, and Americans need to rise up at every step of the way and tell these politicians and their lobbyists that it is immoral to rob the majority of the American people in order to further rig the tax code in favor of the wealthy few.

### **Advocating for the resources New Hampshire needs**

While declaring the opioid epidemic a public health crisis is a much smaller step than the national emergency declaration that President Trump promised, it is better than inaction.

However, the \$57,000 that HHS officials say is currently in the Public Health Emergency Fund is a grossly insufficient dollar amount to devote to this urgent crisis.

The Trump Administration needs to begin actively working with Congress to make a serious down payment on treatment and recovery facilities. The Administration must also make sure New Hampshire starts getting our fair share of funding given the severity of this crisis in our state.

### **Open Enrollment update**

I am outraged that the Trump administration's sabotage will cause premiums for some New Hampshire consumers to spike, especially after last year's insignificant rate increase in New Hampshire indicated that our market was stabilizing.

I encourage all consumers in New Hampshire who buy their own insurance to visit [HealthCare.Gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) ahead of Open Enrollment, which starts November 1<sup>st</sup>, to see if they are eligible for financial help this year. Some consumers will become newly eligible for help, because Affordable Care Act subsidies to help families afford insurance rise along with benchmark premiums.

It is important to note that this week's insurance rate announcements do not apply to the 70% of nonelderly adult Granite Staters who get their insurance through their job, or to those who have Medicare or Medicaid.

Finally, I share New Hampshire families' frustration with insurance companies that are still charging too much for too little. I continue to advocate for a public option that would compete alongside private insurers and increase competition, choice, efficiency, transparency, and affordability in the insurance market, which is why I have introduced the Medicare You Can Opt Into Act.

### **Tackling Rx drug prices**

During the ten years I have been advocating for Medicare to negotiate the cost of prescription drugs, prices have skyrocketed while pharmaceutical companies have kept raking in astounding profits and left seniors and other taxpayers holding the bill. It's past time for Congress to stand up to Big Pharma and clamp down on these out-of-control drug prices. That's why this week I co-introduced legislation to require the federal government to leverage its bulk purchasing power to negotiate lower Medicare drug prices for seniors.

### **Closing thoughts**

This morning, I enjoyed speaking to Ms. Murdough's AP U.S. Government class at Kennett High School in North Conway. It was so refreshing to spend time with these smart, well-informed students.



Congress needs to work together to make sure their generation gets a fair shot at the American Dream.

For more pictures from this week, click [here](#).

Best wishes,

*Carol Shea-Porter*

Carol

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#### Recent Press Releases

- [Shea-Porter Statement on Opioid Public Health Crisis Declaration](#)
- [Shea-Porter Statement on House Passage of Senate Republican Budget](#)
- [Shea-Porter Co-Introduces Legislation Requiring Drug Companies to Negotiate Lower Drug Prices for Seniors](#)
- [Shea-Porter Statement on 2018 Insurance Rates in New Hampshire](#)
- [Shea-Porter Introduces Bill to Increase Benefits for Surviving Spouses of Disabled Veterans and Servicemembers Killed in Line of Duty](#)

- [Shea-Porter Statement on House Passage of Anti-Fentanyl INTERDICT Act](#)

ICYMI

### **[There's A Glaring Hole In Trump's Plan To Fight Opioid Addiction](#)**

**The Huffington Post // Jennifer Bendery**

President Donald Trump announced Thursday that he's declaring the opioid epidemic a national public health emergency and vowed to fight drug addiction. But it's a much smaller step than issuing a national disaster declaration, which would let the federal government tap into Federal Emergency Management Agency funds to tackle opioid addiction. Rep. Carol Shea-Porter (D-N.H.), who represents a state hit hard by the opioid epidemic, said Trump should have gone with the disaster declaration.



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